

Children's Behavioral Health System State Board  
Meeting Minutes  
September 14, 2021  
9:00 am to 2:00 pm  
Zoom

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**CHILDREN'S BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Andrew Allen	Mary Neubauer
Darci Alt	Brad Niebling
Dan Cox	Dr. Nate Noble
Kelly Garcia	Okpara Rice
Peggy Huppert	Shanell Wagler
Nalo Johnson	Richard Whitaker
Carol Meade	

**CHILDREN'S BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Timi Brown-Powers	Senator Liz Mathis
Senator Jeff Edler	Jason Sandholdt
Scott Hobart	Beth Townsend
Representative Shannon Lundgren	

**OTHER ATTENDEES:**

Aaron Roome	Mae Hingtgen
Amy Campbell	Marilyn Althoff
Amy Grask	Marissa Eyanson
Britney Hicken	Megan Logan
Carlye Wellman	Melissa DuVall
Chaney Yeast	Michele Tilotta
Clare Kelly	Mona Onken
Debra Schrader	Natalie Ginty
Denise Rathman	Rhonda Rairden-Nelson
Emilee Harris	Robin McKee
Emily Ehlers	Russell Wood
Emma Hall	Sandi Hurtado-Peters
Erin Drinnin	Sharon Nieman
Faith Sandberg-Rodriguez	Sharrell Soliveras
Flora Schmidt	Shelley Horak
Heather Weers	Stacie Maass
Jacque Coulson	Sue Whitty
Jennifer Robbins	Tami Gilliland
Julie Gibbons	Tammy Wetjen-Kesterson
Kim Scorza	Tasha Beghtol
Kris Bell	Tashina Hornaday
Leisa Mayer	Theresa Armstrong
Liz Moss	Tony Raymer
Louise Galbraith	Torie Keith

## **Materials Referenced**

*Children's Board May July 13, 2021, Meeting Minutes*

*Children's Behavioral Strategic Planning Agenda*

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Brad Niebling called the meeting to order at 9:01 am thanking the Children's Board and the public for their attendance. Quorum was established at 9:45 am with twelve members present.

## **Review & Vote on Approval of July 13, 2021, Meeting Minutes**

Peggy Huppert made a motion to approve the July 13, 2021, meeting minutes. Andrew Allen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Department Updates**

Brad Niebling, Iowa Department of Education, provided an update on Therapeutic Classrooms. There was a mixture of applications including school districts looking to start new programs and school districts looking to expand existing programs. Awards have been made to the following schools: Ames Community School District, Clinton Community School District, Eastern Allamakee Community School District, Hinton Community School District, Mount Pleasant Community School District, and Washington Community School District. Awarded updates to six school districts, Ames, Clinton, Eastern Allamakee, Hinton, Mount Pleasant, Washington.

Additional information about Therapeutic Classrooms can be found at <https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/learner-supports/therapeutic-classrooms>. The Administrative Rules approved; Chapter 281-14 can be found at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/iac/chapter/281.14.pdf>.

Brad also provided an update on GEER II Grant Applications, a competitive grant for mental health supports for public schools totaling \$8.6M. This grant includes coordination and delivery of mental health services and wraparound support to students, youth mental health first aid training and implementation, and suicide prevention services and programming. The DE is currently engaged in the appeal process. Additional information can be found at [https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/emergency-relief-pk-12-schools#CRRSA\\_Act\\_for\\_PK-12\\_Schools](https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/emergency-relief-pk-12-schools#CRRSA_Act_for_PK-12_Schools).

Brad shared information for the Iowa BEST Conference currently scheduled for November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. The Conference is free of charge and will be held at the Iowa Events Center. Registration for the Conference can be found at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/iowa-best-summit-2021-tickets-161833639773>.

Brad presented to the Board a Request for Approval Process (RFAP) relating to Behavioral Health Screeners launched by DE September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Iowa Code 280A allows a district, accredited nonpublic school or AEA to contract with a mental health professional or health care organization to provide behavioral health screenings in-person with 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in a public/nonpublic accredited school. Additional information can be found at <https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/learner-supports/request-approval-rfap-social-emotional-behavioral-health-universal-screening>.

Director Kelly Garcia, Iowa Department of Human Services, provided an update on a 5-year Medicaid System Evaluation to assess the entire system to see what is working and where there are access challenges. This assessment is funded through the enhanced federal match that we are receiving through ARPA dollars for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS).

This project includes proposals for an outside consultant to conduct this evaluation. This system assessment includes Medicaid, Public Health, MHDS Regions, Corrections, Juvenile Justice, Aging, Area/Local Education Agencies, and Child Welfare.

Director Garcia discussed workforce shortages being experienced across the state with behavioral health staff and direct care professionals. Director Garcia reported there are many challenges across the board, including rates and current legislation, that are additional challenges. Director Garcia shared Governor Reynolds is supporting efforts to address these shortages through creative solutions.

### **Metrics Subcommittee Update**

Brad Niebling reviewed with the Board the top 10 metrics identified by the Board and how the subcommittee is working to pull data for the metrics as data exists. Brad reported the subcommittee is working on a longitudinal pull of data for metric 5.4 relating to comprehensive services. Relating to behavioral health screeners, work continues to occur to identify the appropriate data to pull to fulfill the ask. Brad reported he has a new staff member who will assist in this data analysis work.

### **MHDS Region Performance Based Contracts**

Marissa Eyanson provided an update MHDS Region Performance Based Contracts because of SF619. This is part of the process from the local property-based levy system to state dollars that will fund systemic work. Marissa stated coordination with the MHDS Regions is underway and looking at an 18-month contract. Contracts will begin January 1 with a report due December 2022 to the legislature. The contracts work in for DHS to approve/deny/revise annual service and budget plans, MHDS Regions to provide access to core services, Medicaid and other dollars be leveraged before regional funds are utilized, authority for DHS to identify improvement goals, and authority to provide a corrective action plan.

Marissa addressed if analyzing dollars spent by the MHDS Regions is an appropriate measure to how the Children's System is being built. Marissa stated this is a possibility with the awareness that there would be a delay in reporting this information. The other thought to consider is that MHDS Regions are the last resort funder for those in the mental health system meaning dollars spent are less reflective to the entire system.

Mary commented that the fear still exists that dollars will be streamlined more to adult services than children's services and a way to address this is through transparency of spending.

### **Emergency Rules**

Marissa Eyanson provided an update on the Emergency Rules because of SF 619 that states DHS will create an incentive fund for MHDS Regions who achieve outcomes in the performance-based contracts. MHDS Commission is going to be asked to approve the emergency rules to help with the implementation of the incentive fund for FY2022 and FY2023. Applications for the incentive fund are due November 15, 2021, decision by DHS December 15, 2021, money distributed by January 1, 2022. This is just about the establishment of the incentive fund until the regular funding schedule goes into place. This meeting will be October 12, 2021. There will be additional rules that will be added to Chapter 25 that will implement the policy side of SF 619.

**Parent Panel**

Liz Moss (Orange City) shared her story of navigating mental health services in Iowa for her two adopted sons, 11 y.o. and 13 y.o. Adopted as infants through international adoption, Liz shared her younger son developed behaviors at a young age of self-harm and physical aggression. Her family sought out individual and family therapy in her community, but many did not have the appropriate training to treat her son. Liz enrolled her son in the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, MD for an intensive 3-week outpatient treatment program. Currently, her son continues to receive outpatient therapy in his community as well as receives supports in school, including an IEP. Liz shared her older son developed anxiety and depression in elementary school that has worsened as he has aged; he has resumed outpatient therapy. Liz shared it has been difficult to obtain supports in school for her older son. Liz shared the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated struggles experienced by children and their families in accessing or continuing to access services.

**Public Comment**

Chaney Yeast, Blank Children's Hospital, appreciated the parent presentation and emphasized the importance of hearing from parents regularly. Chaney also addressed the importance of analyzing spending on children's services since not all core services are services that have been paid for by the MHDS Regions previously. Chaney also stressed the importance of looking at spending alongside desired outcomes and indicators to paint a full picture of progress with the children's system.

Jacque Coulson, AMOS, shared the Des Moines and Ankeny AMOS groups are developing a Civic Academy that will teach civic organizations/nonprofits/churches about the process that was used to develop children's services. This will be rolled out end of 2021/early 2022.

**Break**

The Board broke from 11:03 am to 11:35 am.

**Strategic Planning**

Shelley Horak, DHS Program Manager, continued conversations with the Children's Board on navigating their role as a board and identifying future goals for the board. The Children's Board reviewed the results of their last discussion and continued by developing an elevator speech about who they are, what they do, why they do it, what the approach is, and what is their impact. The Children's Board then identified short-, medium-, and long-term measures of success. The Children's Board reviewed the three-year roadmap proposed including the development of new subcommittees, meeting layout, and between meeting activities.

**Annual Report Discussion**

Marissa Eyanson led the Children's Board through a first review of the draft 2021 Children's Board Annual Report. The Children's Board will review the report and provide any feedback to the planning team to compile.

**Public Comment**

None

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Torie Keith.